

Smith and Whiting, had ten million feet of white pine cut each year for a period of six or seven years.

At that time hardwood seemed to be of little value. During the past fifteen or twenty years it has been cut rapidly, perhaps as much as one hundred and fifty to two hundred million feet have been taken from Knapps Creek and Douthards Creek and some valuable tracts are still standing.

The first saw mills to dot this section were the up and down mills run by water power. If we are rightly informed, there were three of these; one owned and operated by Moore's at a point about opposite Moore Schoolhouse, one was on the Lockridge farm where Douthards creek unites with Knapps Creek, and the third mill was built by Henry Harper and operated by him and his son Samuel, for a number of years. This last mill continued sawing until about 1890 and was the last mill of its kind to be operated in the community. Sometimes during the eighties P. M. Harper sawed lumber on this mill to build his house where Mrs. E. A. Pritchard now lives.

The first circular saw mill in this neighborhood was brought here from Augusta county, Virginia, for Wise Herold and I. B. Moore. Many people visited the new mill to observe its working.

Grist mill. The first mill to grind grain was the one owned by Michael Dougherty on the Mill Run where he settled. Peter Lightner, who was a well known citizen here in 1855, had a mill on the run at D. W. Dever's. Joseph Sharp, a pioneer of Frost, had a mill constructed close where A. A. Sharp now resides, one-half mile from the village.

Henry Harper also had a grist mill which ground wheat, corn and buckwheat. It was located on the farm owned by Harmon Shinoberry. In connection with the grist mill Mr. Harper had a saw mill which has already been mentioned, a tan-yard, and one of the old fashioned-tilthammer blacksmith shops. The tilthammer was run by water-power. The mill for grinding grain crushed the kernels between two large revolving stones which were brought from Rockbridge county, Virginia. It was not used longer than 1896.

The Civil War. No battles of the Civil War were fought on the territory embraced within the Knapps Creek Community but brave men who have lived here were in service.

Some were valiant soldiers of the Federal Army while others joined the ranks of the Confederacy. Squads of Yankees frequently passed through this section and General Averill, a Union Commander, with his army, camped one night at Frost, marching on the next day to Huntersville.

Establishment of Post Offices - A post office was established at the village of Frost in 1853. Francis Dever was the first postmaster. In conversing with the oldest person in the community, Mrs. Ellen Buzzard, who was ninety-nine years of age on June 23, 1924, she says she does not remember how the name originated, but the presumption is that the name Frost was given to the office on account of the high altitude.

Early storekeepers were Frances Dever, Stuart Wade, Samuel Gibson, and J. E. Hannah.

Before "Uncle Sam" favored the people with a rural free delivery route there was a post office on Knapps Creek near the Mt. Carmel and Westminster Churches known as Sunset. Someone suggested this name because there was an office directly east of here in Batch County, Virginia, by the name of Sunrise. When mail was first carried to the early established offices it was only brought on Wednesdays and Saturdays. One of the early mail routes was from Huntersville to Mill Gap in Virginia.

Roads. The people were very much handicapped in their efforts to travel. Like Daniel Boone when he went to Kentucky they had to make the roads when they came to the country. The first known road leading from what is now Virginia into the Knapps Creek Valley came across the Allegheny Mountains just opposite the old Harper Mill. We find from the old land grants made by governors of Virginia, where corners were called for on this road which was then as Knapp's Spur, or the Spur Road. This name was likely given it because it was the road traveled by Mr. Knapp who will always be honored by the valley that has been named for him.

While the road is now only a pathway and but little traveled in this age of automobiles it shows evidence of having been dug or graded in a few places where it beats up a ridge on each side of the mountain. For years the people of Back Creek

and it is coming horseback to the Farkers Hill in bringing their grain to the ground.

The first wagon brought to Focahontas county was brought over Knapp's Spur Road and was taken up the hollow where Westminster Church now stands and which was known as the Ervine Hollow at that time, and on to Cloverlick where it was used.

As the valley improved the fields fenced the road was kept on the Alleghany side the greater part of the way. On account of the shade and ice there in winter parts of it were changed from time to time until the entire road was made on the opposite side of the valley. The last change was made about forty years ago by two colored men, Jacob Kernel and Andrew Daughtery of Frost. The state re-graded the road in 1923, making it much wider to accomodate the increased traffic.

Churches. In 1833 Mt. Zion Church in "The Hills" was built. It is a log structure but has been materially repaired and is still used for a house of worship. Previous to the erection of Mt. Vernon Church the people of Upper Knapp Creek attended services at Mt. Zion. Many of them went horseback across the country by way of the Kill Run at I. B. Moore's.

Mt. Vernon Church was erected in 1856. A noticeable feature of this building is the good quality of the lumber used. Scarcely a defective spot can be seen in the ceiling. John McElevue and son did the carpenter work. All the lumber was planed by hand at a shop on the land owned by Moses Moore who was a noted Christian Character.

Trinity M. E. Church at Frost was dedicated in 1886. The opening prayer was offered by Rev. Wm. T. Price of Marlinton. The dedicatory sermon was preached by Rev. Dr. Fiese of Monroe County. Rev. George Spencer was the pastor in charge.

New Hope Lutheran at Minnehaha was built in 1893 through the efforts of Henry Wills, Sr., and his family who came to Southard's creek in 1876. Before building the church they had occasional services by Lutheran pastors in their homes, in nearby churches, and in school houses. For some years after the building of the church the congregation was supplied by ministers from the South Branch Charge of Highland County, Virginia. Later it had a pastor of its own, but at the present

It is again supplied by an occasional visiting pastor.

Schools. We do not boast of any high school in our community at this writing for reason that the settlement is a scattered one, but we are proud of the progress the schools have made since the age of the log school house.

We are unable to say when the first school was taught at Frost. A person now living tells us of one being taught there in an old store building before the Civil War. At some later period a one room school house was built near the location of the present two roomed house. This was abandoned in 1912 and a modern school house erected.

When the Civil War began school was being taught by Miss Mattie Gum, the daughter of the late George Gingar of Huntersville, in a log school house which stood on the knoll near L. R. Hively's residence. The next building used for school in the Sunset neighborhood was on the hill not far from J. A. Cleeks.

We are indebted to Rev. Wm. T. Price for the history he recorded and left us.

Montes Times
Oct. 25, 1926.

Walle Y. McLaughlin
Hillsboro, Pocahontas Co

Little Levels Academy was established in 1842 under a charter granted by the State of Virginia. The incorporators were Josiah Beard, S. D. Poage, Samuel Mathews, James Lewis, Moses Poage, John Hill, Thomas Hill, James Miller and Richard McNeel. The first Principal was Rev. Joseph Brown, who served seven years. He was succeeded by Rev. M. D. Dunlap who remained at the head of the institution for eleven years, until 1860, when the war/ (Civil) came on and the school closed. The school was re-opened in the sixties under the name of Hillsboro College, but was closed again before the end of the war.

This was the first school of high order in the County, and it left its impress upon the educational interest of the County. In 1865 the county purchased the building and it was used for public schools from 1870 throughout the eighties. Large contributions from the citizens and the public school money again made it a school of high order for boys--combined with a grade system under the name of Hillsboro Academy. A school of high order for girls was also established in the large basement of the Methodist Church, known as Hillsboro Collage, also as Little Levels Seminary. The teachers in the girls school were Miss Lizzie Gibson, of Staunton, Va, Principal, Miss Bettie Fulwider, Miss Henrietta Goldman, Miss Lydia McNeel, and Miss Nettie Stulting. Teachers in boys school were Prof. McCutcheon, Principal of Lexington, Va., Randolph Smith and his brother John of Richmond, Va. and C. J. Stulting, Hillsboro, W. Va.

The old brick Academy was torn down and a new frame building took its place. The building had six rooms. Prof. C. A. Brown of Virginia, Principal, who was regarded by the people as an excellent teacher. Both boys and girls went to the same school, and the little town of Hillsboro and the farm homes were filled with boarders.

The frame building was finally set aside and a handsome brick high school building known as the Hillsboro High School was built, and later a large gray brick building for the grades. The grounds of these handsome buildings open on the Seneca Trail State Road. Large school buses transport the students for miles in every direction. The school is equipped with modern equipment. The teachers are Prof. Frank K. Johnson, of Virginia, Miss Brake of Ohio, Miss Helen Smith, Marlinton and Alexander McLaughlin, of Hillsboro.

The county has good schools for the negroes. The Board of Education employs good teachers for the negroes and they are doing good work.

The little White Pole Church mentioned elsewhere was the first Church built in Little Levels District. The growing need of a large Church was seen when Nathaniel Kennison and William Kennison gave a lot in the eastern part of the town of Hillsboro for a new Church. Soon a fine Church with a large basement for schools was erected. The members of the White Pole Church transferred their records to Wesley Chapel--the new Church. Many noted preachers proclaimed the gospel in that Church. Among them the noted Bishop Asbury.

Among the noted supporters of this Church were/James Lewis & wife
Joseph (Rebecca
Beard, Mattie Beard, Joel Hill, Rebecca Hill, Thomas Hill
and Annie Hill, William Kennison and Nancy Kennison, Nathan-
iel Kennison and wife, Samuel Auldridge and wife Susan.
Among the younger members who loved this Church were the
late R. W. Hill and Margaret Hill, father and mother of the
late Hon. Frank Raymond Hill, George R. Curry, William
Clendenen, George Hill.

The first Presbyterian Church ~~was~~ organized within
the present limits of the county was known as Oak Grove
Presbyterian Church on the Little Levels in the year 1793.
For a period of thirty seven years after its organization
it had neither pastor nor stated supply. The only preaching
being by Ministers from distant fields who visited this
mountain section. Rev. John McCue was the first Minister.
After him came ^{Rev.} Loomis. He was succeeded by the celebrated
John McElheny, D. D. who preached for many years at the Oak
Grove Church and did much in securing its permanency.

In the year 1830 this Church was reorganized by Rev.
S. L. Graham and at the time numbered but nine members, in-
cluding four deacons, who were Josiah Beard, George Poage,
John Jordan and S. D. Poage. Mr. Graham was pastor of this
Church for thirty nine years when he was succeeded by Rev. ²
J. S. Blaine, then by Rev's. D. S. Cunningham, William Brown,
Joseph Brown, M. D. Dunlap and D. S. Sydenstricker. Oak Grove
Church was one mile from Hillsboro, built of an excellent
quality of brick, During the years of 1870 and 1874, the

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Church was moved to Hillsboro and a large frame Church was built, with a basement for Sunday School rooms and ^{which} was built with the bricks of the old Church. About thirty years ago the frame Church gave ~~its~~ place to a modern new brick Church. Rev. J. C. Johnson was pastor of the New Church for a number of years--then Rev. Randolph Adkison and now Rev. Marlin B. Curry.

An old and honored ruling elder in this Presbyterian Church is Mathew John McNeel, aged 92 years. He is still an active elder and has served the three Churches. He is regarded as a pillar of old Oak Grove Presbyterian Church.

Mathew Lee Beard, aged 84 years is another honored elder. He has been faithful in his services as ruling elder and a pillar in this Church. These old elders are loved and honored by the entire congregation.

Hills Creek Falls

Hills Creek Falls is one of the most wonderful natural curiosities of Pocahontas County. We travel into the heart of the Mountains to see these falls, yet the pen fails to give adequate description of the manner in which the water falls over the rocks. It is an hours climb up the mountain to the lower or main fall which is a clear drop of seventy feet, the water being transformed into spray before it reaches the bottom. ~~xxxx~~ About three hundred

yards above ~~it~~ the second fall, where the water has a drop of thirty five feet, and two hundred yards beyond is the third fall which has a drop of forty feet.

Hills Creek is a wonderful stream in southern Pocahontas, fifteen yerds in width. It disappears at the foot of Droop Mountain and has an under ground passage under this tremendous mountain for about four miles, when it emerges, and is called Locust Creek ^{for} about two miles where it enters Greenbrier River. Large parties visit Hills Creek Falls every summer and express themselves delighted with the wonderful outing.

Another scene that cannot be described but must be seen to be appreciated, is the sunrise from top of Drooping Mountain. We will give it as described by two ministers, who were on top of this mountain to see nature in her great beauty. Drooping Mountain overlooks much of southern Pocahontas and commands an entrancing view of Hillsboro and its charming rural surroundings of grove, field and orchard. They slowly ascended the broad winding road up the mountain side toward the summit. Their view on every hand was shut in by ~~the~~ dense misty barriers. Upon reaching the crest of the mountain, the sun was seen in all its glorious power and light, ready to roll away the mists that were over the hills, vales and the streams, keeping them from view. The scene was one of adoration and awe. Words could not fitly express the scene. The radiant power of the sun had come and was working miracles. The surface of the vast cloud beneath began

to rise and roll like waves and as one would tower above others near, it seemed to draw them along, till all had vanished in upward viewless flight.

Drops of dissolving mist were on the leaves like pearls and they hung the bushes with brilliants and shone like diamonds on the grass.

Pocahontas

Chapter 7

Marlinton Visited By Early Morning Fire

Pifer Motor Company Garage Suffers Damage

Last Tuesday morning when the early risers were building their fires and the night owls were just getting to sleep the frosty air was split by the heart catching wail of the fire siren.

The siren called at about 5:20 a. m. and the fire fighters were on the job in a few minutes and found that the blaze was just two doors from the fire house, at Pifer's Garage.

Without losing any time the smoke eaters unreeled their hose and soon had a stream of Marlinton's nauseating water on the blaze. It looked for a while like the barber shop of Frank Moore and the Fire House were also doomed but there is evidently something in our evil smelling water that is death on fire for the boys soon had the inferno calmed down and after a three hour fight in freezing weather finally put the blackout on the insurance man's nightmare.

It is thought that the fire was caused by defective wiring in the building.

Due to the prompt and effective efforts of the local fire company damage was limited to the balcony and roof of the old Opera House building. The amount of the damage has been estimated at about \$4,000 part of which is accounted for by parts stored on the balcony by the garage.

There were quite a few automobiles stored in the garage at the time of the fire but with the help of the firemen and other citizens they were all removed before they were damaged.

While this was one of the most spectacular fires that has visited Marlinton in some time it could have caused many times the damage it did had it not been for the good work of the local fire company under the leadership of Fire Chief Paul Overholt, and the entire community owes these lads a debt of gratitude for their prompt, efficient service.

Just a word to the non-resident about Marlinton's water. The water we are now using is not our regular supply, water is now being obtained from mineral wells, which explains the strange odor and taste.

Calvin Price Talks On Nationwide Hookup

Last Tuesday night the names of Marlinton and the Greenbrier river were heard from coast to coast of our land as Calvin W. Price, editor of the Pocahontas Times, spoke over the nationwide hookup of the "We The People" program.

Editor Price is to be congratulated on being chosen to speak over the air on this program as it is one of the most popular on the networks.

*Marlinton
Journal*

1/11/40

Pocahontas — Chapter 7**Marlinton Laundry Victim
Of Early Morning Fire**

The wailing of the fire siren announced to residents of Marlinton that the Demon Fire had once more picked out a local building for its victim at 12:30 this morning.

The fire, which evidently started at the southern, or laundry, end of the building, spread rapidly on account of the high wind prevailing at the time. The frame building burned quickly and it was evident by the time the fire truck reached the scene that it would be impossible to save it. Firemen therefore concentrated their efforts on holding the fire in check and thus reduce the possibility of the flames spreading to other buildings. Fortunately there are no buildings near the laundry and this helped to check the possible loss.

The northern end of the building was fitted up for light housekeeping and was occupied by Mr and Mrs. Earl Price and three other people whose name could not be learned immediately. The house furnishings of these people were mostly all damaged or destroyed before the fire was extinguished. Volunteers succeeded in saving a few pieces of furniture but the intense smoke kept them from venturing into the building for more than a few seconds at a time.

Mrs. W. J. Yeager was the proprietor of the laundry which occupied the largest part of the building and the building itself was owned by Mr Hubert Echols. It could not be ascertained this morning whether or not any insurance was carried on the building or contents.

Marlinton Journal
2/15/40